Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 219223
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY IO:GBHELMAN:MR
APPROVED BY IO:CWMAYNES
AF:DPETTERSON
INR/RAF:TCTHORN
S/S: WROPE
----------006629 291838Z /44
O 291824Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T STATE 219223

EXDIS: FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND ASST SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNSC, WA

SUBJECT:NAMIBIA: SWAPO'S SECOND THOUGHTS

1. AS YOU ARE AWARE, PRESENT SCENARIO TO IMPLEMENT
UNTAG CALLS FOR WALDHEIM IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO TO SUBMIT
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PAGE 02 STATE 219223

HIS REPORT AND DRAFT MANDATE TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL FOR
APPROVAL. ASSUMING FAVORABLE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE SC
CONCEIVABLY COULD ACT SOME TIME THIS WEEKEND TO APPROVE
UNTAG.

2. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, SEVERAL DEVELOPMENTS WHICH
PROMISE TO UNDERMINE THIS SCENARIO. CHIEF AMONG THESE

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IS SWAPO'S SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE WISDOM OF ITS HAVING AGREED TO THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL. WE HAVE RECEIVED SEVERAL RELIABLE INDICATIONS THAT NUJOMA AND MEMBERS OF HIS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WANT TO FIND WAYS OF BACKING OUT. THE INCIDENTS ALONG THE CAPRIVI STRIP AND THE RUMORED PROSPECTIVE FORAYS INTO OVAMBOLAND MAY REFLECT THIS.

3. WE ALSO HAVE SOME REASON FOR CONCERN THAT ATTITUDE OF NIGERIA TO PROMOTE DELAY IN UN ACTION COULD SERVE TO ASSIST AND REINFORCE NUJOMA IN HIS NEW

STRATEGY (SEE MESSAGE BEING SENT IN A SEPARATE CHANNEL).

4. WITH THAT AS BACKGROUND, WE HOPE YOU WILL TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE CONTACTS AVAILABLE TO YOU DURING THE COURSE OF KENYATTA'S FUNERAL TO PRESS ON FRONT LINE LEADERSHIP (AND ESPECIALLY ANGOLA AND ZAMBIA) AND NIGERIA THE IMPORTANCE OF MOVING AHEAD WITH THE UNTAG SETTLEMENT AND MAKING CLEAR TO ALL SIDES THAT WE ARE NOT GOING TO ALLOW THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR PEACEFUL CHANGE TO SLIP. THE PRIMARY NEED NOW IS ACTION BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO DECLARE A CEASEFIRE AND TO DEPLOY UNTAG. DELAY WILL ONLY PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF THOSE ELEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND WITHIN SWAPO WHO REJECT THE PROSPECTS OF A NEGOTIATED TRANSITION.

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Status: NATIVE
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